

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN INR-10

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O R 060001Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

S E C R E T STATE 115667

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, WTO

SUBJECT: APRIL 24-25 WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING
- CT FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

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REF: (A) 4478 (NOTAL); (B) BUDAPEST 1759 (NOTAL).
(C) SOFIA 815 (NOTAL) -

1. FOLLOWING IS REQUESTED ANALYSIS ON SUBJECT MEETING.
MISSION MAY DRAW ON ANALYSIS AS APPROPRIATE DURING MAY 9
POLADS MEETING AND CIRCULATE TEXT TO ALLIED DELS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN
SOFIA, APRIL 24-25

A. A WARSAW PACT SUMMIT IN 1976 APPROVED THE CREATION OF
A FORMAL COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHICH MET FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN MOSCOW LAST MAY. MEETING AGAIN APRIL 24-25,
THE COMMITTEE PUBLISHED STATEMENTS ON DISARMAMENT AND
EUROPEAN SECURITY MORE NOTEWORTHY FOR THEIR OMISSIONS THAN
SUBSTANCE. THE FORMAL COMMUNIQUE:

-- URGED THAT THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD)
PRODUCE A "BREAKTHROUGH" IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON ENDING
THE ARMS RACE AND STATED THAT THE WARSAW PACT INTENDED TO
PRESS FOR ATTAINMENT OF "CONCRETE POSITIVE RESULTS";

-- CALLED FOR A STUDY OF THE WARSAW PACT'S 1976 PROPOSALS
ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND OF "OTHER PROPOSALS" BY WARSAW
PACT MEMBERS PURSUANT TO PROCEDURES TO BE WORKED OUT BY A
CONSENSUS OF CSCE PARTICIPANTS.

B. OMISSIONS FROM THE COMMUNIQUE SUGGEST THAT THE SOVIETS
CONTINUE TO HAVE DIFFICULTIES GETTING WHAT THEY WANT OUT
OF THE COORDINATION PROCESS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF, FOR
ONE THING, ROMANIAN INTRANSIGENCE.

-- THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO BREZHNEV'S APRIL 25 PROPOSALS
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TO HALT "FURTHER QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE GROWTH OF
ARMAMENTS AND ARMED FORCES OF STATES WITH LARGE MILITARY
POTENTIAL" OR TO THE TREATY BANNING THE ENHANCED RADIATION
WEAPON TABLED BY THE SOVIETS AT GENEVA IN MARCH. MOSCOW
PRESUMABLY INTENDS TO PRESS THESE PROPOSALS AT THE SSOD.

-- BREZHNEV'S CALL, MADE DURING THE INITIAL PHASE OF THE
BELGRADE CSCE MEETING, FOR A SECURITY "PROGRAM OF ACTION",
INCLUDING A LIMIT IN THE SIZE OF MILITARY EXERCISES TO
50,000-60,000 MEN, WAS BURIED IN A REFERENCE TO "OTHER
PROPOSALS" ON EUROPEAN SECURITY.

-- LIKEWISE, THE WARSAW PACT'S 1976 PROPOSALS -- PROPOSALS
REPEATED BY BREZHNEV IN HIS OCTOBER 21 STATEMENT AND
INCLUDED IN THE "PROGRAM OF ACTION" TABLED BY THE SOVIET
DELEGATION AT BELGRADE -- FOR A TREATY AMONG CSCE STATES
TO BAN THE FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, TO FREEZE NATO/
WARSAW PACT MEMBERSHIPS, AND TO PROHIBIT THE CREATION OF
NEW POLITICAL-MILITARY GROUPS WERE ONLY ALUDED TO. THE
ROMANIANS, WHO HAD AGREED TO THE 1976 PROPOSALS, WERE
NOTABLY ALOOF ON THE FOLLOW-UP PROPAGANDA.

-- THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. BOTH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO ADDRESSED MBFR IN RECENT DAYS, COMMENTING CRITICALLY ABOUT THE NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS BUT NOT DISMISSING THEM OUT OF HAND.

C. THESE DIFFICULTIES ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE INSTITUTION-ALIZATION PROCESS IN THE WARSAW PACT IS STILL ENCOUNTERING A FAMILIAR FOOT-DRAGGING ON THE PART OF ROMANIA AND OTHERS. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COMMITTEE PROBABLY FACES MANY OF THE SAME PROBLEMS REGARDING REGULARITY OF MEETINGS THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (PCC) HAS HAD. THE PCC ; HAS MET IRREGULARLY IN RECENT YEARS BECAUSE OF THE INABILITY TO ARRIVE AT COMMON POSITIONS IN ADVANCE. END TEXT.

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3. FOR USNATO, BUDAPEST AND BUCHAREST: IF EMBASSY BUDAPEST HAS NO OBJECTION, MISSION MAY ALSO DRAW UPON REF B AS WELL AS REF C TO SUPPLEMENT ABOVE ANALYSIS.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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